

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12297 131650Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6973

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE, SY

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN PRESS ON LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: CAIRO 12258

1. AS EGYPTIAN DAILIES BEGIN TO CONCENTRATE ON UPCOMING VISITS
TO CAIRO OF LEBANESE LEADERS, NEGOTIATIONS IN DAMASCUS CURRENTLY
RECEIVING SHORT SHRIFT ON LOCAL FRONT PAGES. ALL DAILIES
SEPTEMBER 13 CARRY DEPPRIMIN/FONMIN FAHMY'S STATEMENT THAT CAIRO
TO BE CENTER OF VIGOROUS POLITICAL ACTIVITY ON LEBANON DURING
NEXT FEW DAYS. VISIT TO DAMASCUS OF SAUDI FONMIN PRINCE SAJUD,
DISCUSSIONS IN SYRIA OF AL MEDIATOR DR. AL-KHULI AND TUNISIAN
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FONMIN CHATTI, AND ALLEGED MEETING BETWEEN SYRIAN AIR FORCE CHIEF

NAJI JAMIL AND PLO DELEGATION LED BY ABU IYAD IN SO FAR ALL
RELEGATED TO BACK PAGES.

2. SHI'ITE IMAM MUSA SADR REPORTEDLY RETURNED TO CAIRO
EVENING SEPTEMBER 12 FOR SECOND VISIT IN WEEK. MUSA SABRI
OF AKHBAR WONDERS EDITORIALY WHETHER SADR BRINGING BACK
CERTAIN CLARIFICATIONS AS TO SYRIAN INTENTIONS AFTER DISCUSSIONS
WITH PRESIDENT ASAD. ALL DAILIES REPORT ON FRONT PAGES ARRIVAL
MORNING SEPTEMBER 13 OF LEBANESE PRIMIN KARAMI, WHO TO BE
FOLLOWED IN APPARENTLY QUICK SUCCESSION BY THE PHALANGIST
LEADER GEMAYEL AND FORMER PRIMIN SA'IB SALAM. NO MENTION
MADE IN SEPTEMBER 13 DAILIES OF POSSIBILITY OF VISIT BY
NATIONALIST FORCES' LEADER JUMBLATT. JUMBLATT PREDICTION OF
INTENSIFICATION OF PRESIDENT SARKIS ON SEPTEMBER 23 CARRIED
PROMINENTLY IN AHRAM, HOWEVER.

3. COMMENT: WITH CAIRO'S BELATED EMERGENCE FROM THE WINGS
OF LEBANESE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, LOCAL DAILIES DO NOT APPEAR
WILLING EVEN TO CONSIDER FACT THAT SOME PROGRESS MAY HAVE BEEN
ACHIEVED DURING RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN SYRIA. VISIT OF PRINCE SA'UD TO
DAMASCUS BEING PLAYED AS EFFORT TO SMOOTH WAY FOR UPCOMING ARAB SUMMIT

RATHER THAN DIRECTLY RELATED TO NEGOTIATIONS ON LEBANON. AT
THE MOMENT, PAPERS FOLLOWING TONE SET BY FAHMY AND PORTRAYING
CAIRO AS FOCUS OF LEBANESE NEGOTIATIONS DURING COMING WEEK.
MATTHEWS

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